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EXDIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-1,3 4/6/02 (HARE, PAUL) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, IS, JO, US SUBJECT: SHARON PROPOSES TO MEET CODEL PRICE IN

EAST JERUSALEM OFFICE

REF: TEL AVIV 4586

- CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.
- IN ARRANGING MEETINGS FOR CODEL PRICE, MEIR MISHAN, MFA CONTROL OFFICER FOR THIS VISIT, INFORMED EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER THAT A MONDAY, APRIL 12. MEETING BETWEEN THE CODEL AND DEFENSE MINISTER SHARON WILL BE HELD IN HIS NEW EAST JERUSALEM OFFICE (REFTEL).
- ON LEARNING OF THE ABOVE, DCM BROWN CALLED MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BAR-ON SEEKING CONFIRMATION AND CLARIFICATION. BAR-ON SAID HE WOULD CHECK BUT IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO WHAT SEEMED LIKE A WELL-PREPARED SPEECH. BAR-ON TESTILY SAID IF THIS IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THEN IN FACT IT MUST BE TRUE. HE GAVE HIS "STRICTLY PERSONAL VIEW" THAT DEFENSE MINISTER SHARON HAS BEEN HUNTING FOR NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR A LONG TIME AND HAS BEEN ACCOMMODATING OFFICIAL AMERICAN VISITORS BY MEETING THEM IN THE MFA AND OTHER OFFICES. IS NATURAL, BAR-ON EXPLAINED, THAT SHARON WOULD HAVE HIS OWN OFFICE AND WANT TO RECEIVE PEOPLE THERE. . BAR-ON'S "VERY STRONG PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION" IS THAT THE U.S. NOT DO ANYTHING TO THY TO MAKE A POLITICAL ISSUE OUT OF THIS. BAR ON SAID THE NEW OFFICE COMPLEX WAS IN FACT LOCATED IN WHAT USED TO BE ON THE ROAD TO MT. SCOPUS AND IMPLIED THEREFORE THAT IT WAS NOT TECHNICALLY IN EAST JERUSALEM. IN BAR-ON'S VIEW, AN ARGUMENT QWAR THIS WOULD BE "COMPLETELY SUPERFLUOUS." LEWIS END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

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